

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103. Currently pending claims 1-15 and 17-20 are believed allowable, with claims 1, 11, and 18 being independent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103:

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8 and 10-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,442,689 to Kocher (herein "Kocher") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,564,219 to Lee et al. (herein "Lee"). It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8 and 10-20 are not obviated by Kocher and Lee, and that such rejections should be withdrawn.

The pending application describes methods and systems for certificate revocation list (CRL) consolidation and access. Application, page 5, lines 2-5. Although certification authorities (CAs) provide valuable authentication services that enable modern electronic commerce over the Internet to take place, their certificate formats and distribution mechanisms vary greatly be one another. See generally, Application, pages 7-10. The present invention beneficially provides a novel scheme that consolidates CRLs issued by various CAs and provides access to the CRLs by electronic commerce applications in a uniform manner. Application, page 11, lines 24-28. In a particular embodiment of the invention, such uniform access is enabled using a set of unified application program interfaces (APIs) for online application to access CRL information. Application, page 11, lines 14-16. By doing so, the invention allows electronic commerce applications to have easier, faster, and less costly access to CRL databases. Application, page 12, lines 8-10.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1 recites, in part, "a CRL access user interface for providing a uniform set of APIs for users accessing the CRLs in the CRL database, said system enabling consolidation and access of the certificate revocation lists (CRLs) from the plurality of certificate authorities (CAs)." As discussed in the Office Action,

Kocher does not disclose the above-cited limitation of Claim 1. See Office Action, page 3. Moreover, Lee is directed towards identifying changes of logical objects, and it is respectfully submitted that Lee cannot be offered to teach a CRL access user interface for providing a uniform set of APIs for users accessing the CRLs in the CRL database, said system enabling consolidation and access of the CRLs from the plurality of CAs. Lee, col. 3, lines 26-32. Since Kocher and Lee, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-cited limitation of Claim 1, they therefore cannot obviate Claim 1. See MPEP 2143. Thus, Claim 1 is believed allowable over the cited art for at least this reason.

Claim 1 further recites, in part, "creating a plurality of CRL retrieval agents based on the CRL distribution mechanisms of CAs." It is respectfully submitted that neither Kocher nor Lee, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest this limitation. Specifically, Kocher merely mentions constructing "a list of revoked certificates by obtaining CRLs or other revocation messages." Kocher, col. 10, lines 1-3. Kocher does not teach or suggest retrieval agents based on the CRL distribution mechanisms of CAs. Likewise, Lee is silent to the above-cited limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, Claim 1 is further believe not to be obviated by Kocher and Lee, and is allowable over the cited art. See MPEP 2143.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on and further limit Claim 1. Since Claim 1 is believed allowable over the cited art, Claims 2-10 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claim 11 recites, in part, "creating a plurality of CRL retrieval agents based on the CRL distribution mechanisms of CAs, for consolidating the CRLs from multiple CAs." As discussed above, this limitation is not disclosed or suggested in either Kocher or Lee. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 is not anticipated by the cited references and is allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 12-15 and 17 are dependent on and further limit Claim 11. Since Claim 11 is believed allowable over the cited art, Claims 12-15

and 17 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 11.

Claim 18 recites, in part, "creating a plurality of CRL retrieval agents based on the CRL distribution mechanisms of CAs, for consolidating the CRLs from multiple CAs." As discussed above, this limitation is not disclosed or suggested in either Kocher or Lee. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18 is not anticipated by the cited references and is allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 19-21 are dependent on and further limit Claim 18. Since Claim 18 is believed allowable over the cited art, Claims 19-21 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 18.

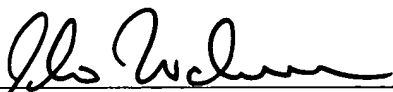
CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a \$770 check for the RCE fee. No additional fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 13, 2003


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